

MIGRATION CRISIS
ALTER EUROPEAN COURSE

A new extraordinary summit of Interior Ministers will be held in Brussels on September 14th to face the urgent migrant “emergency” and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon has asked Member States’ representatives to discuss on this topic in the context of the General Assembly on September 30th.

What is happening between Africa and Europe through the Mediterranean, Latin America and USA and in Asia is not yet a humanitarian emergency, but it is a permanent demographic change in the relations between the peoples all over the world as a consequence of the radicalization of the crisis to which international Institutions and national States have not been able to provide adequate and urgent responses.

Over the years many rights and values have rarefied. Such as the protection of fundamental rights, the recognition of the human dignity, the defense of the environment, the guarantee of common goods (water, food, health, education, democracy), the belief that conflicts among States and within States need to be solved in a peaceful way to erase the fear and the horrors of war, the respect for cultural and religious diversity.

Today, the real challenge lies in a rapid change of course in response to demographic change, putting an end to the growing rarefaction and create the conditions for an international democratic system able to assure to all common goods.

We must share the cry of Pope Bergoglio: “Globalize solidarity”.

In recent years national States and international Institutions have taken collective commitments and created political, legal and financial instruments, summarized in the “Millennium Development Goals”, that are on the agenda of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.

The European Union, through the Lisbon Treaty, has innovated European policies on asylum and immigration on the basis of the respect for human dignity, equality, the rule of law and the respect of human rights.

It’s necessary for the EU to be more effective in foreign policy, also through extraordinary measures, towards those countries and areas which are more involved in this unusual and large-scale migration flow. An extraordinary phenomenon like this will not be solved with “ordinary” instruments.

Today we can and we must change of course.

The European Union must confirm:

- That policies on border controls, asylum and immigration are common,

- That they are founded on the principle of solidarity, applied to all of these policies and not only to the reception of refugees,
- That these policies shall be formulated, adopted and applied on a Commission proposals and on a majority decisions of the Council and EP,
- That it is a "community of law" founded on extended and strengthened role of the Court of Justice.

We ask:

- As immediate measures that the Commission proposes and the Council and the EP decide: the discontinuation of individual and collective rejection measures (in accordance with the Geneva Convention of July, 28th 1951 and the Protocol of January, 31th 1967), the opening of legal access for refugees, protection of unaccompanied minors and the facilitation of family reunification, the acceleration of procedures for humanitarian visas and residence permits for temporary protection, the increased activity of search and rescue at sea, strengthening of financial and human resources of the four European Funds (for external borders, for the integration of third-country nationals, for refugees and for repatriation)
- As medium-term measures, the creation of the European asylum system, resettlement programs (mandatory for Member States), inclusion policies also involving least populated internal areas, the revision of the Dublin Regulation 3 on the basis of a coherent European asylum policy.
- As long-term measures, the right of the soil (jus soli) as a common rule in the European Union, the transition from the concurrent competences to exclusive ones in the field of development cooperation and food aid policy, the extension of the ordinary legislative procedure and EP's powers concerning the adoption of urgent measures in case of sudden influx of migrants.
- To adopt as a common EU position during the General Assembly of the United Nations, the preparation and the EU-UN joint supervision of legal access routes for those fleeing war and climatic and economic disasters, the central role of African development issue in the Millennium Goals, the commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Conventions that have honored collective rights over time.

Rome, September 7th 2015